

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

Published by
THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS
1201 Sixteenth Street N W Washington D C

VOL. III

DECEMBER, 1935

NO. 5



Courtesy of the National Parent-Teacher Magazine

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A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM OUR NATIONAL PRESIDENT

"Our purposes are all built around the child and nothing can take from us the glow of beauty that arises from the vision of a better, happier childhood in the nation. If we needed a higher inspiration, it comes to us at this Christmas tide when all the world rejoices because a child was born."

Mary L. Leary

REMINDER

May we remind our readers that the National Office serves more than 23,000 local parent-teacher associations in the 49 state branches of the Congress. Hundreds of orders for Congress publications and requests for information are handled by the office every week.

Letters receive attention and orders are filled as rapidly as possible, in the order of their receipt. Unfortunately, during our busy season we are unable to handle immediately all orders received in the office. We should like to give each order attention the minute it is received, but this is humanly impossible. Please bear this in mind when ordering material. Anticipate your needs and order your publications well in advance.

In order to facilitate handling orders, please observe the following suggestions:

1. Please write all orders on a separate sheet; do not include orders with requests for other information.
2. Allow three weeks for the material to reach you, if possible.
3. Discounts should be deducted from the listed price of publications before remittance is sent to the National Office.

Community Freedom in the Choice of Films

"The abolition of compulsory block-booking would open the screens of the country to anyone who could make good pictures and thus would encourage capital and creative talent now excluded from the business to enter into competition with the existing monopoly," states the Allied States Association of Independent Exhibitors in a recent publication, explaining and advocating passage of the Neely-Pettengill Bill (S. 3021-H. R. 6472).

"Favorable action on this measure, which for many years has had unparalleled support by state Congresses of Parents and Teachers, depends upon wide expression of this support to our Congressmen," states our National Legislation Chairman, Mrs. Mary T. Bannerman.

Specifically, Mrs. Bannerman asks every believer in local self-government

2. to write the Honorable Sam Rayburn, Chairman of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, D. C., requesting that his committee hold hearings in January on the Pettengill Bill, H. R. 6472.

Letters need not be typewritten and should be short. Ask others to write. Follow-up once a month, asking what has been done, etc.

Survey of Educational Films

A survey to list all motion pictures which have an educational value is being conducted jointly by the U. S. Office of Education and The survey is part of the work being carried on by the American Council on Education in connection with its sponsorship of the proposed American Educational Film Institute.

The Council is eager to secure as complete listing as possible of all films suitable for educational purposes. Persons owning such films are invited to get in touch with the American Council on Education, 744 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C.

Moneymaking Suggestions

The California *Parent-Teacher Bulletin* recently published an interesting account of how California districts make money to carry on their work. Some of the methods may be helpful to units in other states.

An indoor winter carnival was staged in the Thirteenth District, in the school, at which various forms of entertainment were offered, such as entertainment by highschool students and through motion pictures, music, and games, at a cost of 10 cents or less.

The carnival idea in the Sixteenth District takes the form of a May Day fete and a bazaar of nations, with all guests in costume. Benefit athletic contests are also successful in this district. Nearly \$4,000 for milk and nutrition was earned by sponsoring a football game.

In the Fourth District, the Chamber of Commerce, the American Legion, or the highschool baseball teams sponsor an annual baseball game for the benefit of the milk fund, with tickets ranging in price from 25 cents to \$2.

At the county fair, a "Little Red School House" lunch room is managed by the members of a council in the Eighth District and their friends, all of whom compose a general committee with sub-committees, each responsible for one day.

Cafeterias are operated in the Fifth District and the Eleventh District.

Potluck suppers for families of P.T.A. members seem to make money, insure a good time, and add to the membership. One unit in the Ninth District gave a potluck dinner with a menu of real Spanish food and with decorations suggesting Spain.

One unit of the Eleventh District gave the play, "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," and cleared \$100 on it. Some units of this district charge a small admission fee for book reviews.

Parent Education Opportunities

Ellen C. Lombard, our National Congress Chairman of Home Education, and Office of Education Specialist in Parent Education, has recently concluded a survey of parent education opportunities in the United States.

Miss Lombard finds that fathers and mothers of today have access to many sources of help in solving their home problems. Helps are offered by government, state, and local agencies, organizations whose main interest is parent education, and schools and colleges.

Findings of the survey are reported in the Office of Education bulletin, *Parent Education Opportunities*, which describes the activities of agencies which have had parent education programs since 1930. It may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., price 10 cents.

Parent Education Bulletins

How to Organize and Conduct County Forums. Published by the Extension Service and the Agricultural Adjustment Administration of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. It may be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.

A Parent Education Discussion Outline, by Lita Bane, Collaborator in Parent Education. Published by the Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Order from the Extension Service, Division of Cooperative Extension, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Two health articles appear in the December issue of the *National Parent-Teacher Magazine*—"The School Doctor States His Case," by Harold H. Mitchell, and "Turning the Light on School Lighting," by Hugh Grant Rowell.



THE ONLY OFFICIAL MAGAZINE
OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS
OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

Winners

Winners of the \$50 awards offered by the *National Parent-Teacher Magazine* to the states having the highest percentage of local magazine chairmen registered at the Washington office on November 1, are as follows:

- Class 1—Pennsylvania
- Class 2—Colorado
- Class 3—Arkansas
- Class 4—District of Columbia
- Class 5—Arizona
- Class 6—New Hampshire

The District of Columbia Congress has the distinction of having 100 percent registration, with a magazine chairman in each of its local units.

Reference Guide

Program Helps for P.T.A.'s—An index to Congress publications and to the *National Parent-Teacher Magazine*—is available in mimeograph form from the National Office at 10c a copy. References grouped under each of the committee subjects and the parent-teacher movement make an adequate and practical guide for parent-teacher workers.

Parent-Teacher Radio Forum

N.B.C.—WJZ Blue Network
Wednesday, 2:30-3:00 p. m.,
E.S.T.

Sponsored by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, the University of Chicago, and the National Broadcasting Company

February 5

Freedom of Expression, of Press, and of Teaching—Herman G. James, President, Ohio State University, Columbus.

February 12

Indoctrination: What Does It Mean?—Charles H. Judd, Professor of Education, Chairman, Department of Education, University of Chicago.

February 19

The Doctor's Relation to the Home—Dr. C. A. Aldrich, Chicago.

February 26

Critical Appreciation of Motion Pictures—Edgar Dale, Bureau of Educational Research, Ohio State University, Columbus.

NOTE: Mimeographed copies of these radio talks, after delivery, may be secured from the National Office, price 5 cents each. A list of speakers and program topics for the three months' period ending January 29, 1936, will be sent free upon request. Inclose a stamped self-addressed envelop.

Food and Drug Information

Recently prepared materials on the Food and Drug Act are available on request at the U. S. Food and Drug Administration, Washington, D. C., or at any of the offices of its field service. A list of field stations may be secured from the U. S. Food and Drug Administration.

A series of photographic exhibits showing abuses that cannot be corrected under present law are also available at the field stations. These may be loaned for brief periods to consumer organizations requesting them.

The American Vocational Association met in Chicago, December 4-7.

News From State Branches

Hawaii

From present indications, the Hawaii Congress of Parents and Teachers will have more than 1,500 new members for the coming year. Oahu has three new councils, and there has been a general extension and unification of the entire organization.

Missouri

During the coming year, the Missouri Congress will stress organization in rural areas, the development of parent-teacher cooperation in the one- and two-room school.

Mrs. E. R. Weeks, "Mother of parent-teacher work in Missouri," who is 85 years old, relinquished the chairmanship of Parent Education after establishing the work of that committee most thoroughly.

Indiana

As a result of the effort of the state Congress committee on Physical Education and Recreation to help schools secure play equipment for children, 74 parent-teacher associations furnished 1,281 items of equipment to children of primary, intermediate, and junior highschool grades.

Floyd I. McMurray, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, urges that Juvenile Patrols be used as much as possible, and that such patrols be composed of older pupils under proper direction. He solicits the cooperation of parent-teacher associations in the statewide safety program.

New Hampshire

Adolescent problems have been studied during the past year by mothers and teachers of Symonds Junior Highschool, Keene. Guiding the Adolescent, Social Growth of the Adolescent, Leisure Time Books for Adolescent Boys and Girls, and Sex and Adolescence were among the topics considered at the semi-monthly meetings. Speakers included a librarian, a woman physician, a highschool teacher, and a nursery school specialist. Informal discussion centered around the meeting topic.

Special activities were sponsored by the group for the boys and girls of the junior highschool. The mothers arranged the program, provided the refreshments, and had general charge of the activity each month. Among the activities were a Christmas party, valentine party, outdoor roast, masquerade book party, winter sports carnival, geography party, and outdoor athletic meet.

Arkansas

"Changing Attitudes through Adult Education" is the title of a new study program published by the Arkansas Congress in cooperation with the Curriculum Study Forces of the Arkansas State Department of Education.

Nebraska

Mrs. C. E. Roe, National Field Secretary, addressed a recent conference on character education in Lincoln. The conference was called by the state superintendent so that leaders might formulate a program of character education outside the school which would make the school requirement more effective.

Vermont

Folders of publications to aid local unit presidents and their chairmen are being offered as a loan service from the state Congress office. The folders, which contain suggestions and help on various phases of the work of the parent-teacher organization, are loaned for a period not to exceed two weeks, there being no charge except the postage.

Oregon

Membership awards were made at the state convention of the Oregon Congress, October 22-25. Ashland City Council received the silver cup (Gabriel Cup) for having the largest membership according to school enrolment from March 31, 1935, to October 18, 1935, with 39 percent plus gain. Their school enrolment was 1,052 and parent-teacher membership 475.

Grants Pass City Council received honorable mention, with a 30 percent plus gain. Their school enrolment was 1,571 and their parent-teacher membership 475.

District of Columbia

A series of fortnightly institutes has been conducted this fall by the District Congress for the purpose of training leaders.

Mississippi

A history of the first 25 years of the Mississippi Congress has been published recently. It is entitled "Those Yesterdays" and was written by Mrs. Clyde V. Maxwell.

New York

Following up Governor Lehman's Conference on Crime, the Criminal, and Society, the New York State Congress urges that every community study local conditions which are causing crime and make an active effort to change them.

New York State Congress will observe its fortieth anniversary in October, 1937. Already plans are being made for an outstanding convention.

Texas

The Endowment Fund of the Texas Congress was established in 1923 by Mrs. Ella Caruthers Porter, Dallas, who donated a substantial sum for such a fund with the proviso that the Texas Congress contribute a like amount. Only the interest is used for extension work in Texas. Today this fund has reached approximately \$35,000 and it is invested in real estate loans under the supervision of a special trustee who is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Endowment Fund.

Just as in the home the salary, for the most part, is considered the basic income for the family, so in the Texas Congress the Endowment Fund is rated as the nucleus of finances. A gift may be made by individuals through the local unit or by the organization.

—Mrs. J. M. CRAIN,
State Publicity Chairman.

Mrs. M. A. Taylor, of Bonham, is the new president of the Texas Congress.

Correction

In the November issue of the NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN, we announced that the *National Parent-Teacher Magazine* would publish an article about Mrs. David O. Mears in January or February; this article appeared in the November issue.



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